

REMARKS

At the time of the Office Action dated November 10, 2005, claims 1-6 were pending in this application. In this Amendment, claims 1-3, 5 and 6 have been amended, and new claims 7-10 added. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Specifically, adequate descriptive support for the amendment of the claims can be found on, for example, page 19, lines 11-24 of the specification.

Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, Examiner Huntsinger's courtesy and professionalism in conducting a telephonic interview on March 6, 2006, during which the present Amendment was discussed. It is Applicant's understanding that the amendments of claims 1, 5 and 6 would distinguish the claims from the cited references, Isobe et al., Yamaguchi et al. and Stapleford, and Examiner Huntsinger further agreed that the Examiner's Official Notice (see page 4 of the Office Action) does not teach rasterizing each color component of digital data after separation of the digital data.

Claims 1-5 have been amended under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Isobe et al., Yamaguchi et al. and Stapleford; and Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Isobe et al. and Stapleford.

In the statement of the rejection, the Examiner asserted that the applied combination of Isobe et al., Yamaguchi et al. and Stapleford teaches all the limitations recited in independent claims 1 and 5, and the combination of Isobe et al. and Stapleford teaches all the limitations recited in independent claim 6.

In response, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 5 and 6 to recite that the server controller and each unit controller communicate with each other to perform the process of

creating a plurality of separate plate data. As admitted by Examiner, such added limitations are not taught by the applied combination of Isobe et al., Yamaguchi et al. and Stapleford.

Accordingly, Isobe et al., Yamaguchi et al., Yamaguchi et al. and Stapleford, either individually or in combination, would not have suggested each and every limitation of independent claims 1, 5 and 6. Dependent claims 2-4 are also patentably distinguishable at least because they include all the limitations recited in independent claim 1. Applicant, therefore, solicits withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103, and favorable consideration thereof.

New Claims 7-10

New claims 7-10 are patentably distinguishable over Isobe et al., Yamaguchi et al. and Stapleford at least because they include all the limitations recited in independent claims 1, 5 and 6, respectively. Applicant, therefore, respectfully solicits favorable consideration of new claims 7-10.

Conclusion.

It should, therefore, be apparent that the imposed rejections have been overcome and that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Favorable consideration is, therefore, respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Application No.: 09/913,327

Respectfully submitted,

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